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Bureaucrats Build Stone Wall Around Story of Klan in CIA

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By Victor Marchetti

A new scandal is brewing in the CIA. The Washington "Post" will soon break it. According to very sensitive sources of The SPOTLIGHT, the "Post" is on the verge of publishing a story to the effect that a Ku Klux Klan klavern has been operating inside the super-secret agency for at least several months. The CIA's leaders have been attempting to cover up the matter.

The "Post's" attempts to confront the CIA directly with the knowledge that it has been quietly tolerating the existence of a klavern at its headquarters building in Langley, Virginia have thus



WILLIAM CASEY
... Stonewalling?

far been stonewalled. Efforts to alert the congressional intelligence committees that oversee the activities of the CIA have been met with an unwillingness to deal with the issue.

It is increasingly obvious the professionals and politicians responsible for the integrity of U.S. intelligence want to kill this story because of the embarrassment it will shower upon them.

CONTROL LOST

In the past, membership in the Klan or any other organization considered to be "extremist" by the standards of Eastern

Establishment liberalism was grounds for automatic dismissal from the CIA. But the spy agency has grown so large and unwieldy in recent years that its leaders have lost control.

(The CIA now has an annual budget of \$2.8 billion and a staff of 24,000 people, not counting contract personnel, temporary agents or members of front groups.)

The "company" is no longer capable of rooting out the enemy spies within it, much less able to keep tabs on its officers who have been corrupted by the trade and turned crooked. Thus, it is easy to understand how a Klan group could come to exist right under the nose of the agency's Office of Security.

The existence of the klavern, centered in the CIA's huge Office of Computer Services, was leaked to the journalistic world only weeks ago. According to The SPOTLIGHT's inside sources—an agency computer specialist and a consultant from a firm on contract to the CIA—the secret society group had been holding its meetings in the Ruffing Room of the Office of Computer Services, during business hours.

(The room is named after Fred Ruffing, the CIA computer expert who died of a stroke while bicycling to work early one morning a few years ago.)

SOURCES ASTONISHED

These sources, neither of whom is a Klan member, accidentally came across a klavern meeting last December and were astonished by what they witnessed. A Black man was pinned against the wall by several members of the group and was being harassed and threatened.

There were 15 to 20 CIA employees attending the meeting, dressed in makeshift Klan costumes.

The two startled visitors, although disturbed by what they saw, went along with what they thought was some sort of a gag. Only later did they realize that the scene was not some sort of weird fun and games. It was for real.

After the meeting, the unexpected guests were told by klavern members that the CIA Klan's purpose was to limit and control the number of Blacks, Orientals, Hispanics and other "ethnics" being hired by the agency.

Said one Ku Kluxer: "We are being inundated by them [non-Whites], and they are not as qualified as they should be. But once they get into the place, they become unmanageable. They're cocky and pushy."

"They have no respect for the system. They think it owes them a living and a free ride to the top—just because they are minorities."

The unexpected guests were given Klan literature and told that the klavern was connected with a Baltimore branch of the KKK.

The klavern leaders implied that they had friends higher up in the Office of Computer Services. One reportedly is a deputy division chief.

Eventually the two men were invited to join the group. (They declined.)

STONEWALLING

Neither the consultant (a Southerner) nor the CIA specialist approved of what they had witnessed or had been told. The incident was reported to the agency's Office of Security.

When the CIA employee did not hear back from the security officers after a couple of weeks, he inquired again about the status of the klavern.

He was told not to worry. He was informed: "They no longer hold their meetings in the building."

After the story leaked to the press, one journalist confronted the agency directly. He was passed along to the Office of Security, which dutifully recorded his allegations in detail and tried to get him to reveal his sources. He has heard nothing from the agency since.

The "Post" is expected to report that two investigative reporters have tried to bring the information about the CIA klavern to the attention of three members of the Senate Select Subcommittee for Intelligence Oversight. In two cases neither the senators—David Durenberger (R-Minn.), chairman of the committee, and Arlen Specter (D-Pa.)—nor their staffs returned the numerous phone calls.

In the third case, the senator, Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), agreed to meet with a